

At a Republican leadership press conference today, Congressman Pence detailed the concerns he shares with millions of Hoosiers about the impact of the Democrat energy proposal known as "cap-and-trade:"

Congressman Pence's remarks are below:

"In addition to my duties as House Republican Conference Chairman, Leader Boehner asked me to lead the American energy solutions group in the House Republican Conference. Our task is to first do no harm by doing our part to stop the national energy tax the Democrats will be unveiling this week in the form of their Cap and Trade legislation. And also, as the Leader suggested, to develop a comprehensive energy alternative built on the "all of the above" foundation that Republicans unveiled in the last Congress. We look forward to doing that. We had a successful energy summit on Capitol Hill last Tuesday and will be headed out on the road before the end of this month. To Pittsburgh. To Indianapolis. And to a destination in California as well. Let me speak for just a second about the issue of energy.

"When I was home in Indiana this weekend, there is a sense among many that the economy has bottomed out and that we may be beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel. But along with that sense of hope is a profound anxiety that this Administration and Democrats in Congress will short-circuit our recovery in the next two years by passing a national energy tax. And this we must not do.

"Like millions of Americans, Republicans are anxiously awaiting the details of the Cap and Trade bill after months of asking Democrats to reveal the numbers it sounds like the horse trading is over. The American people hope the Democrats haven't horse traded away our prosperity in the cap and trade bill. The reality is the purpose of cap and trade legislation, no matter how it is deployed, is to discourage consumption of CO2 intensive products, energy and means of transportation by raising costs to consumers. It is a national energy tax. And the American people know this. It is a tax that falls most harshly on lower income Americans, fixed income Americans and if I may say with some sincere regional concern. Cap and trade legislation represents an economic declaration

of war on the Midwest by liberals in Washington, DC and it must be opposed.

"Republicans will offer better solutions, will offer a better energy solution built on more domestic exploration for oil, coal and natural gas, will embrace an all of the above strategy that embrace wind solar and nuclear we'll even advance clean coal technologies. But we must not allow this Administration and this Congress to pass, in these difficult economic times, a national energy tax that will raise the cost of energy to every single American household by thousands of dollars per year."